

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAPLES 00876 121617Z
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SUBJECT: MAY/JUNE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS
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1. SUMMARY - ALTHOUGH OVERALL PERCENTAGE IN MAY 14 ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS MAY GIVE SOME INDICATION OF NATIONAL TREND, BECAUSE OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF VOTE, THE MANY SMALL TOWNS AND THE UNCERTAIN REFERENCE POINTS (1972 ADMINISTRATIVE, 1975 REGIONAL OR 1976 POLITICAL ELECTIONS) RESULTS MAY BE MISLEADING. IT IS PERHAPS USEFUL TO VIEW THE ELECTIONS IN MICROVIEW. THIS CABLE OUTLINES THE SITUATION IN SEVERAL CITIES. END SUMMARY.

PAGE 02 RUFRSGG7808 C O N F I D E N T I A L

2. PORTICI (NAPLES PROVINCE) - WITH JUST OVER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND TIGHTLY PACKED INHABITANTS PORTICI IS THE LARGEST CITY IN THE CON-SULAR DISTRICT WHERE VOTING IS TO TAKE PLACE. ITS GIUNTA IS CENTER/ LEFT WITH A DC MAYOR. IN 1972 ELECTIONS THE DC TOOK THIRTY-FIVE PER-CENT OF THE VOTE AND THE PCI TWENTY-THREE PERCENT. IN JUNE 1976 THE PCI VOTE (FORTY-TWO PERCENT) SURPASSED THE DC (THIRTY PERCENT). FOR THESE ELECTIONS THE DC PROGRAMMED ITS BIG GUNS. PARTY SECRETARY
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PAGE 02 NAPLES 00876 121617Z

ZACCAGNINI WAS TO ATTEND THE FINAL RALLY (HE CANCELLED). LABOR MINISTER SCOTTI IS INFLUENTIAL THERE. THE PCI IS ALSO INTENSELY INTERESTED AND AMENDOLA HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO CLOSE THE CAMPAIGN (CAN-CELED). THE MSI IS THE THIRD STRONGEST PARTY WITH THE OTHERS BEHIND. ISSUES ARE LOCAL - SCHOOLS, HEALTH CARE ETC. - BUT PARTY LEADERS HAVE PARTIALLY 'NATIONALIZED' PORTICI WITH THEIR PRESENCE. DC RALLIES SAID TO BE ESPECIALLY WELL ATTENDED. THE PARTY PREDICTS AN INCREASE

IN THE VOTE AND RETENTION OF CITY HALL. PRESENT DC MAYOR SAYS PCI WILL ALSO IMPROVE SIGNIFICANTLY OVER 1972 PERFORMANCE. THE RIGHT STRUGGLING TO MAINTAIN A GRIP (ALMIRANTE WILL CLOSE MSI CAMPAIGN). LAY PARTIES EXPECTED TO SUFFER FURTHER.

3. GIUGLIANO (NAPLES PROVINCE) -GIUGLIANO HAS FIFTY THOUSAND INHABITANTS. IT IS IN AN AGRICULTURAL AREA, BECOMING COMMERCIAL AND IN-

PAGE 03 RUFRSGG7808 C O N F I D E N T I A L

DUSTRIAL. THE TOWN'S POST-WAR POLITICS ARE LEFTIST. CITY GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN LEFTIST EXCEPT FOR THE 1960'S WHEN CENTER-LEFT ARRANGEMENT PREVAILED. THE PRESENT GIUNTA IS PCI/PSI/PSDI WITH A SOCIALIST MAYOR. IN 1973 ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS THE PCI TOOK THIRTY-SIX PERCENT OF THE VOTE AND THE DC TWENTY-SEVEN. IN JUNE 1976 PCI AND DC POLLED THIRTY-SEVEN AND THIRTY-FOUR PERCENT RESPECTIVELY. THE PSI HAS BEEN THE THIRD PARTY IN GIULIANO WITH FIFTEEN PERCENT IN 1972 BUT LESS THAN TEN PERCENT IN 1976. ISSUES ARE LOCAL. HERE THE DC IS HITTING HARD AT WHAT IT TERMS AN INCOMPETENT LEFTIST GIUNTA. THERE IS HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, SCANDAL IN CONSTRUCTION ETC. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES ARE YOUNG (MOST UNDER THIRTY-FIVE). THE DC PARTY IS EXPECTED TO DO MUCH BETTER THAN IN 1972 WHILE THE PCI IS NOT. THERE IS EVEN TALK OF A NEW CENTER/LEFT GIUNTA IF PSI AND PSDI RETAIN 1972 STRENGTH.

4. ANDRIA (PROVINCE OF BARI) LOCATED IN AN AGRICULTURAL AREA WITH STRONG FARM WORKER ORGANIZATIONS. THERE ARE ALMOST NINETY THOUSAND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NAPLES 00876 121617Z

INHABITANTS. GIUNTAS HAVE BEEN LEFTIST AND PRESENT ADMINISTRATION IS COMMUNIST WITH SOCIALIST SUPPORT. PCI VOTE THIRTY-SEVEN PERCENT IN LAST ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS RISING TO FORTY-SEVEN PERCENT IN JUNE 1976. (ANDRIA DOES NOT REFLECT PUGLIA WIDE VOTE WHERE DC

PAGE 04 RUFRSGG7808 C O N F I D E N T I A L

POLLED ABOUT FORTY PERCENT IN 1972 LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FORTY-THREE PERCENT IN JUNE 1976). A LOCAL CONSTRUCTION SCANDAL INVOLVING BOTH PSI AND DC WILL BE COUNTERACTED AT LEAST FOR DC BY THE IMPACT OF THE MORO ASSASSINATION. THE ADMINISTRATION WILL REMAIN LEFTIST. 5. CROTONE (PROVINCE OF CATANZARO) NEARLY SIXTY-THOUSAND INHABITANTS IN CROTONE WHERE THERE HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY DISORDERLY GROWTH, UNFULFILLED PROMISES, FRUSTRATION AND HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT. FOLLOWING THE CENTER/LEFT GIUNTAS OF 1960'S THE CITY HAS BEEN UNDER LEFTIST MANAGEMENT. PRESENT GIUNTA IS PCI/PSI/PSDI WITH A SOCIALIST MAYOR. IN LAST LOCAL ELECTIONS PCI POLLED FORTY-ONE PERCENT TO DC'S TWENTY-FOUR PERCENT AND PSI SEVENTEEN PERCENT. COMMUNIST VOTE ROSE TO FORTY-EIGHT PERCENT IN JUNE 1976 WHILE DC MOVED UP TO TWENTY-NINE PERCENT AND PSI COLLAPSED. SOCIALIST BLAME PCI 'HEGEMONY' FOR SOME OF ITS PROBLEMS AND THERE IS TALK OF REVIVING CENTER/LEFT ADMINISTRATION

IF THE DC GAIN IS SIGNIFICANT. AN INCREASE IN DC VOTE IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED. THE MSI HAS CARRIED OUT AN ACTIVE CAMPAIGN, AND SOME (INCLUDING PCI PRESS) SEE IT INCREASING ITS EIGHT PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE.

6. THE ABOVE MENTIONED CITIES BY VIRTUE OF SIZE SHOULD GIVE SOME INDICATION OF SHIFT IN VOTER MOOD AS NATIONAL RATHER THAN LOCAL

PAGE 05 RUFRSGG7808 C O N F I D E N T I A L

PHENOMENON. THREE OF THE FOUR ARE LEFTIST. SIGNIFICANT DC GAINS COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE. AS INFORMATION ON ELECTIONS BECOMES AVAILABLE WE WILL REPORT RESULTS AND PROVIDE SOME EXPLICATION. COLANTONIO.

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